

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 09698 061823Z

53

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 H-01
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02
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O R 061715Z DEC 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2111

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, GATT, CA

SUBJ: TARIFFS - SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL (S AND D)

TREATMENT FOR LDC'S

1. SUMMARY. AT INFORMAL DC-LDC MEETING ON DEC. 3, CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL THAT TARIFFS GROUP NOT SEEK AT ITS DEC. 15 MEETING TO SEW UP ISSUE OF S AND D TREATMENT FOR LDC'S, BUT THAT DC'S WOULD ELABORATE VIEWS ON S AND D MEASURES IN TARIFF AREA. THE SECRETARIAT WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY PREPARE INFORMAL PAPER AS BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION INFORMALLY AND AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. LDC'S STRESSED IMPORTANCE TO THEM OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON S AND D MEASURES AND PROCEDURES NOT LATER THAN TIME OF AGREEMENT ON TARIFF REDUCTION FORMULA, BUT NO OBJECTION TO DERERRING EFFORTS TO REACH CONSENSUS

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 09698 061823Z

UNTIL AFTER NEXT MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. DDG PATTERSON CHAIRED INFORMAL MEETING OF DC'S AND LDC'S AT SECRETARIAT DEC. 3 TO DISCUSS SCENARIO FOR DEC. 15 TARIFFS GROUP MEETING. PATTERSON STRESSED THAT EVERYONE WISHES TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AT THIS MEETING AND ASKED WHAT COULD BE AGREED UPON FOR S AND D TREATMENT FOR LDC'S. BY PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN AMB. MACIEL AND ME, BRAZIL (BARTEL-ROSA) SUGGESTED THAT GROUP TAKE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE. HE SUGGESTED THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ELABORATE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THEIR VIEWS ON S AND D MEASURES IN THE TARIFF AREA. THIS PROCESS WOULD PROVIDE A CLEARER NOTION OF THOSE MEASURES WHICH ARE AGREEABLE TO ALL, THOSE WHICH WERE OBJECTIONABLE, AND THOSE ON WHICH FURTHER REFLECTION OR CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE REQUIRED. HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED, NO EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REACH EVEN PARTIAL CONSENSUS. THERE SHOULD BE NO EFFORT AT A WRITTEN SUMMING-UP SETTING FORTH VIEWS ON SPECIFIC MEASURES. IT WAS PREMATURE TO STRIVE FOR THAT DEGREE OF AGREEMENT. RATHER, THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD PREPARE A PAPER, DRAWING UPON DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING, WHICH COULD BE USED IN SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE VIEW OF REACHING THE BEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON S AND D MEASURES BY THE TIME THERE IS AGREEMENT ON A FORMULA. ONCE THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO A PRODUCT-SPECIFIC NOTIFICATION, CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION PROCESS BETWEEN DC'S AND LDC'S.

3. DC'S WHO SPOKE (JAPAN WAS SILENT) GENERALLY ENDORSED BRAZILIAN APPROACH. CANADA AND US EMPHASIZED THE ULTIMATE NECESSITY OF PRODUCT-SPECIFIC NOTIFICATIONS AND STRESSED THE DIFFICULTY OF ABSTRACT AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" ON PARTICULAR MEASURES. US TOOK THE POSTURE OF RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTING BRAZILIAN APPROACH AS MORE AMBITIOUS THAN WE HAD ENVISAGED.

4. THE EC, IN ADDITION, TOOK THE OCCASION TO STRESS THE NEED, ULTIMATELY, FOR LDC CONTRIBUTIONS, DISTINGUISHING THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS FROM THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS EXERCISE (WHERE, IT REMINDED EVERYBODY, IT WAS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 09698 061823Z

SEEKING LDC CONTRIBUTIONS). THE US ALSO REPEATED ITS INTENTION TO SEEK LDC CONTRIBUTIONS.

5. LDC'S GENERALLY ENDORSED BRAZILIAN APPROACH, THOUGH MEXICO SUGGESTED THE IDEA OF DC AGREEMENT ON A TIME LIMIT WITHIN WHICH TO AGREE UPON A TARIFF FORMULA BEFORE OR BY WHICH TIME LDC'S WOULD SUBMIT PRODUCT-SPECIFIC REQUEST LISTS. LDC REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED THE

SIGNIFICANCE THEY ATTACHED TO SOME KIND OF PRIOR
UNDERSTANDING ON MEASURES BEFORE MOVING TO PRODUCT-
SPECIFIC LISTS.

6. COMMENT. BARTEL-ROSA'S STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
BRAZIL WAS WELL DONE AND EFFECTIVELY DISARMED
WHATEVER LDC INSTINCTS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN TO UNDULY
PRESS DC'S AT THE UPCOMING MEETING. IT SUITS OUR
PURPOSES IN LEAVING THE SUBJECT MATTER FLEXIBLE AND
LEAVING US AS MUCH MANEUVERING ROOM AS WE COULD EXPECT.
WHILE THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE CALLS DURING THE MEETING
FOR CONSENSUS OF SPECIFIC ITEMS, THE OUTCOME OF THIS
PRELIMINARY SESSION GIVES US REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WE
CAN AVOID A CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP WHICH COMMITS THE
US TO ANY POSITION BEYOND THT WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY
EXPRESSED IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS. END COMMENT.WALKER

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